

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application as amended herein is respectfully requested. Claim, 17, 25, and 28-29 are amended herein and claims 18, 24, and 26-27 are cancelled. Of the claims, only claim 17 is independent.

In the Office Action of October 10, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 24, 26, and 27, under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants cancelled claims 24, 26, and 27 rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

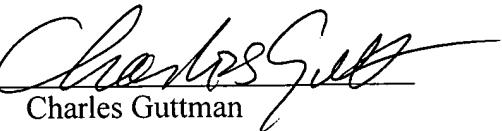
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17, 20, 21, 24, and 26-28, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Krishnan et al. (US Patent 6,065,836).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, and 29, contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled claim 18 and incorporated its limitations into independent claim 17 rendering the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for one month extension of time